

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method, operatable on a computer system, for specifying a source extent of a source image to fill an enclosing region on a display using an input device, the image composed of a two-dimensional graphical object, the region composed of a bounding area, the display including a representation of one or more regions within a larger area or volume, the input device capable of converting user input into a two or three-dimensional position, the method comprising:
 - entering an interactive crop-to-fill mode
 - interactively specifying an update to said source extent of said source image visible within said enclosing region using said input device without affecting exterior dimensions of said enclosing region
 - leaving said interactive crop-to-fill mode
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the display further associates a visual control with each corner of each region which enables interactive crop-to-fill mode, said controls to be rendered visible either upon selection of the region, upon entry into the region by a pointing device, or at all times.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of entering and subsequently leaving the interactive crop-to-fill mode comprises pressing a button on a computer mouse over a visual control associated with one of the selected regions and subsequently releasing the button.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of entering and subsequently leaving the interactive segmenting mode comprises pressing a key on the keyboard and subsequently releasing it.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein the specification of the source image extent is computed by
 - determining which corner of said source extent of said source image is being manipulated;
 - determining the current position of a pointing device in a coordinate system determined by the original location and size of said source extent prior to interaction
 - updating the extent of said source extent and therefore the subregion of said source image to be drawn within said containing region such that the corner of said source image is set to said current pointer position in said source image coordinate system.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein the cropping is applied to said source image when the crop-to-fill mode is exited, and the user is further able to abort cropping, the method for aborting comprising
 - Pressing a key, such as the 'escape' key
7. A computer readable medium having computer instructions stored thereon for implementing a method of specifying a source extent of a source image to fill an enclosing region on a display using an input device, the image composed of a two-dimensional graphical object, the region composed of a bounding area, the display including a representation of one or more regions within a larger area or volume, the input device capable of converting user input into a two or three-dimensional position, the method comprising:

- entering an interactive crop-to-fill mode
 - interactively specifying an update to said source extent of said source image visible within said enclosing region using said input device without affecting exterior dimensions of said enclosing region
 - leaving said interactive crop-to-fill mode
8. The computer readable medium of claim 7 wherein the display further associates a visual control with each corner of each region which enables interactive crop-to-fill mode, said controls to be rendered visible either upon selection of the region, upon entry into the region by a pointing device, or at all times.
 9. The computer readable medium of claim 7 wherein the step of entering and leaving the interactive crop-to-fill mode comprises pressing a button on a computer mouse over a visual control associated with one of the selected regions and subsequently releasing the button.
 10. The computer readable medium of claim 7 wherein the step of entering and leaving the interactive segmenting mode comprises pressing a key on the keyboard and subsequently releasing it.
 11. The computer readable medium of claim 7 wherein the specification of the source image extent is computed by
 - determining which corner of the region said source image is being manipulated;
 - determining the current position of the mouse pointer in a coordinate system determined by the original location and size of the source image prior to interaction
 - updating the extent of said image drawn within said containing region such that the corner of said image is set to said current pointer position in said source image coordinate system.
 12. The computer readable medium of claim 7 wherein the cropping is applied to the contained image when the crop-to-fill mode is exited, and the user is further able to abort cropping, the method for aborting comprising
 - Pressing a key, such as the 'escape' key